

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 03438 051308Z

14

ACTION ORM-02

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9726

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3438

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT SREF ICRC CI

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE: ICRC COMMENTS

REF: SANTIAGO 4061

1. SUMMARY: ICRC GENERAL DELEGATE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND AISA SERGE NESSI ON MAY 3 REVIEWED ICRC ACTIVITIES IN CHILE WITH DEPT DEPUTY COORDINATOR FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS FRANK SIEVERTS (IN GENEVA FOR DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON HUMANITARIAN LAW IN ARMED CONFLICTS). DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE SHORTLY BEFORE REFTEL WAS RECEIVED. NESSI SPOKE GENERALLY ALONG SAME LINES AS REFTEL, LIKE JENNY SEEING SOME GAINS BUT REMAINING GENERALLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE. END SUMMARY.

2. NESSI SAID HE BELIEVES ICRC CONTINUES TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION THROUGH ITS VISITS TO DETAINEES IN THE REGULAR JAILS AND MILITARY PRISONS. HE REMAINS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, ABOUT WHAT HE BELIEVES ARE A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF UNACKNOWLEDGED PRISONERS HELD IN UNAUTHORIZED PLACES OF DETENTION SUCH AS CUATRO ALAMOS. HE WAS GLAD THAT HIS DELEGATION HAD RECENTLY FOR THE FIRST TIME BEEN ABLE TO VISIT DETAINEES AT CUATRO ALAMOS, SINCE ICRC HAD REPEATEDLY PRESSED FOR ACCESS TO THIS AND OTHER UNAUTHORIZED SITES. HE NOTED THAT GOC RECENTLY

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 03438 051308Z

PUBLICLY REFERRED TO CUATRO ALAMOS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO IMPLY IT

IS A "MILITARY PRISON," AND SPECULATED THIS MIGHT BE THE FORMULA FOR ALLOWING ICRC ACCESS TO SUCH FACILITIES.

3. NESSI ASKED IF USG CONTINUED TO SUPPORT ICRC EFFORTS IN CHILE, AND DEPTOFF ASSURED HIM THIS WAS THE CASE. NESSI SAID HE AND HIS DELEGATES VALUED THIER CONTACTS ON THESE SUBJECTS WITH AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO.

4. NESSI ALSO ASKED IF USG STILL HAD IN MIND A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR ICRC'S CHILE PROGRAM, WHICH HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN A PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION LAST YEAR. DEPTOFF SAID WE HOPED THIS COULD BE DONE WHEN FY 1976 APPROPRIATION IS APPROVED.

5. COMMENT: RE ICRC'S REPORTS ON ITS ACTIVITIES IN CHILE (PARA SEVEN REFTEL) IN OUR EXPERICNE ICRC IS GENERALLY RELUCTANT TO SHARE THESE DOCUMENTS WITH GOVERNMENTS OTHER THAN THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED. THE GOVERNMENTS RECEIVING THE REPORTS MAY TAKE INITIATIVE TO RELEASE THEM IF THEY WISH, WITH THE CONDITION THAT THEY MUST BE RELEASED AS A WHOLE, TO GUARD AGAINST SELECTIVE QUOTATION. IF A GOVERNMENT RELEASES PART OF A REPORT, THE ICRC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO RELEASE THE FULL TEXT. OTHERWISE ICRC IS AT PAINS TO PROTECT THEIR CONFIDENTIALITY. THESE PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY ICRC OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS, AND WE WOULD RECOMMEND AGAINST ASKING THEM TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION BY RELEASING TEXTS TO US EVEN ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS.
END COMMENT. ABRAMS

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